



News Release

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Office of Inspector General
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NASA CONTRACTOR SENTENCED FOR FALSIFYING TEST RESULTS, CONSPIRACY, AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

On June 13, 2000, the West Coast Aluminum Heat Company (West Coast), La Mirada, California, along with June Fitch, President and Quality Control Manager, and Eugene Fitch, Jr., Vice-President and General Manager, were sentenced on seven criminal counts, including submitting false statements, conspiracy to make false statements, and obstruction of justice.

West Coast is a contractor to NASA and the Department of Defense. The investigation disclosed that between 1981 and 1997, West Coast improperly heat-treated, aged, and falsified quality testing on metal parts. The parts were used in NASA's Space Shuttle program, on the International Space Station, and in various military and commercial aircraft and missile applications. West Coast was fined \$1,638,000 and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$600. Eugene Fitch, Jr., was sentenced to 55 months confinement and 3 years probation following his release. He was also ordered to pay a \$350 special assessment. June Fitch was fined \$70,000, a \$600 special assessment and sentenced to 3 years of probation, to include 4 months of home detention. The sentence was imposed by United States District Court Judge Richard A. Paez, Central District of California, Los Angeles, CA.

This investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Department of Transportation OIG. The prosecution was handled by Lawrence Middleton, Assistant United States Attorney, Central District of California, Los Angeles, California, (213) 894-2414.

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Complaints May Be Referred To The NASA OIG Hotline At:
800-424-9183